

Serial No. 10/643,180  
Group Art Unit: 3749  
Amdt. Dated December 23, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of September 30, 2004

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**Remarks/Arguments**

This response is accompanied by a Request for Continued Examination and with a power of attorney in our favour.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the telephone interview of December 17, 2004.

The previous set of claims was rejected under 35 USC 102(b) in view of US4,964,566 to Pugh. In Pugh, when a solenoid is powered, the plunger of the solenoid is driven to push a sliding grate open. When power is removed, a return spring attached to one end of the plunger pulls the plunger back and, therefore, pulls the sliding grate closed.

Amended claim 1 requires "drive means" that "is connected, before driving said movable grating toward OPEN position, to remove any slack in the system due to yielding in movement toward CLOSED position". Claim 8 requires "said drive means will move slack in the drive toward OPEN position before directly driving said second grating". Claim 14 requires "said drive means on movement in an OPEN direction causes said second grating to move toward OPEN position after removing any slack due to an earlier yielding". New claim 20 requires "a drive connected to drive said movable grating toward a closed position through a yieldable connection such that said yieldable connection may yield during movement toward said closed position thereby creating slack; said drive connected to directly drive said movable grating toward said open position after first removing any said slack".

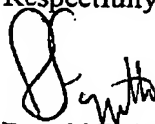
In Pugh, there is can be no slack in the system before driving the movable grate to an open position. It is therefore submitted that claims 1, 8, 14, and 20 patentably define from Pugh. That being so, the remaining claims, which depend from one or other of claims 1, 8, 14, and 20, also patentably define over the art of record.

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In view of the foregoing, early favourable consideration of this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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December 23, 2004

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